

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 AF-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

NIC-01 /145 W

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R 210932Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9092

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MU YS IR PFOR

SUBJ: OMAN

1. CHARGE KILLGORE AND I MET EVENING OF MAR 16 WITH BAHRAINI
FONMIN MOHAMED MOBARAK WHO IS ONE OF THE MORE ASTUTE
POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN GULF TODAY.

2. FONMIN SAID THAT WHILE THERE WERE OF COURSE OTHER PROBLEMS
OF IMPORTANCE IN GULF SUCH AS ROLE OF IRAQ AND SAUDI-UAE
RELATIONS, SOUTH YEMEN WAS IN HIS OPINION KEY TO CONTINUED STABILITY
IN GULF. WHILE REGION WAS MENACED BY PRESENT PDRY POLICIES.
SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE - AND SOON. IRANIAN INTERVENTION IN
OMAN, WHILE UNDERSTANDABLE, WAS NOT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION IN
HIS VIEW. PROBELM OF SUBVERSION FROM PDRY, NOT ONLY IN DHOFAR BUT
THROUGHOUT GULF AS WELL NEEDED TO BE TACKLED AT THE BASE - ADEN.
BECAUSE SOUTH YENEMIS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO DIVEST THEMSELVES
OF SOVIETS AND OTHER COMMUNIST FRIENDS ON THEIR OWN, INITIATIVE

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SHOULD COME FROM FELLOW ARABS WHO COULD APPLY NECESSARY PRESSURE

AS WELL AS PROVIDE NECESSARY FACE-SAVER. FONMIN THOUGHT APPROACH TO PDRY SHOULD BE MADE BY LEADING ARAB STATES. PERHAPS EGYPT FOR ONE. FONMIN SAID HE WAS TRYING GET SUBJECT OF PDRY PLACED ON AGENDA OF MARCH 25 ARAB COUNCIL MEETING, AND HE INTENDED MENTION IDEA TO PRINCE SALMAN (GOVERNOR OF RIYADH) WHO WAS DUE SHORTLY IN MANAMA FOR BRIEF STOPOVER ON HIS WAY TO SOCCER TOURNAMENT IN KUWAIT.

3. MOHAMED SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH SOUTH YEMENI PRIME MINISTER, FONMIN AND ABDALLAH KHAMIRI MIN OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS LAHORE CONFERENCE. SOUTH YEMENIS INSISTED THEY WERE NOT MARXIST NOR WAS ADEN A SOVIET BASE. MOHAMED SAID HE TOLD THEM THAT IF THIS WAS TRUE, THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR REAL PDRY DIFFERENCES WITH SAUDI ARABIA. FONMIN SAID IN ANSWER SOUTH YEMEN REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PDRY-BAHRAINI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HE HAD TOLD THEM GOB WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF SAME REQUEST ALSO MADE TO QATAR, UAE, OMAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. BAHRAIN, FONMIN SAID, WAS NOT PREPARED TO BE ONLY GULF STATE WITH RELATIONS WITH SOUTH YEMEN BESIDES KUWAIT.

4. I MENTIONED THAT SOUTH YEMENI FONMIN SCHEDULED VISIT KUWAIT SHORTLY; KUWAITIS ALSO ANXIOUS DO WHAT THEY COULD TO FOSTER OMANI-PDRY RECONCILIATION. MOHAMED OPINED PDRY PRES RUBAYYA AND SULTAN QABUS WOULD GET ALONG FINE IF THEY MET. I SAID I ALSO HAD IMPRESSION SULTAN PREFERRED RUBAYYA OVER OTHER PDRY LEADERS.

5. COMMENT: IRANIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN OMAN CLEARLY CONTINUES TO WORRY GULF ARABS, BUT AT MOMENT IT SEEMS TO BE UP TO SHAH WHETHER THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A BAD THING OR NOT. IF HE OVERPLAYS HIS HAND IN OMAN, HE COULD ENGENDER ARAB-PERSIAN CONFRONTATION WHICH COULD THREATEN STABILITY OF GULF. IF HIS INTENTION IS TO PUT MESSAGE ACROSS THAT IF ARABS DO NOT PUT THEIR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER, HE WILL, WE SHOULD COME OUT ALL RIGHT. SO FAR IRANIAN MILITARY AID TO OMAN SEEMS TO BE ACCOMPLISHING SUCCESSFULLY THE TWIN GOALS OF HELPING THE OMANIS AGAINST THE REBELS AND GOADING THE ARABS INTO TRYING TO SORT OUT THEIR PROBLEM CHILD IN SOUTHEAST ARABIA.

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